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MAGAZINE NOTES

AMRUT — From Clean Cities to Contaminated Water

15 January 2026 ·

POLITY

SOCIAL ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT

GS2

GS3

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AMRUT — From Clean Cities to Contaminated Water



Down to Earth

Chapter 6 · 1 min read

WHY IN NEWS

Despite ₹1.93 lakh crore spending under AMRUT across 3,500 projects, structural failures in fund allocation caused public health crises in cities like Indore.

Key Data

- Total spending: **₹1,93,104 crore** across 3,500 projects
- Fund allocation: **62%** to long-distance water supply piping, only **34%** to sewerage, **3%** to local waterbodies
- **Structural failure:** Untreated sewage from unconnected septic tanks leaked into expensively pumped distant drinking water

Critical Evaluation

- Skewed “pipes-first” approach directly caused water contamination disasters
- **Policy must shift** to “sewage-first” and local waterbody rejuvenation approach

UPSC Angle

- **GS2:** Urban governance, infrastructure planning
- **GS3:** Water supply, sanitation, public health



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